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**1911 - 2019**



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# *The History of I.U.O.E. Local No. 463* **BUILDING ANOTHER**

# **LEGACY OF WONDER IN NIAGARA FALLS**



**B**y the time 11 steam engineers who were seeking to improve their dismal working conditions met in Chicago on December 7, 1896, and formed the **National Union of Steam Engineers of America**, the City of Niagara Falls, New York, was in the midst of a period of explosive growth. With the natural lure and power-producing might of the Niagara River and the American Falls serving as the welcome mat on its doorstep, at the turn of the 20th Century, the city had become a heavily

industrialized area dominated by companies manufacturing petrochemicals, abrasives, metallurgical products and other materials.

“The dream of unlimited power available at Niagara Falls created an exuberant optimism that seemed to be borne out in the cutting-edge technologies, new products and rapid growth and prosperity of the city,” Niagara Falls National Heritage Area literature states. “Niagara Falls was becoming an industrial metropolis that spawned utopian visions of the future.”





**"To Whom It May Concern, Greeting:**

"Whereas, a petition has been received praying that a Charter be granted for the formation of a Local Union of the International Union of Operating Engineers to be located at *Niagara Falls, New York,* with the following Territorial Jurisdiction:

*Niagara County, New York, and all the cities and towns therein;*

The International Union of Operating Engineers hereby retains the right to amend, restrict or enlarge said territorial jurisdiction:

"Know Ye, that acting under the authority vested in us by the Constitution, and Laws of our International Union, we desire and cause this Charter to be issued for the institution of a Local Union to be known as

*Hoisting and Portable*

Local Union No. 463 : with the following Craft Jurisdiction:

*Hoisting and Portable,*

*as stipulated in Subsection (b), Section 4 of, Article XIII of the Constitution.*

The International Union of Operating Engineers hereby retaining the right to amend, restrict or enlarge said craft jurisdiction: and to bear date of *December 31, 1938,* and by virtue of this Charter to do and perform such acts as are presented in the Constitution, Laws and Rules of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

"The International Union hereby declares its right to suspend or revoke this Charter for any neglect or refusal to perform the duties required by the Constitution and Laws of this organization, and should the aforesaid Local Union be dissolved or forfeit this Charter, then all property, books, papers and monies shall be transferred to the General Office of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

"In Witness Whereof, we do now cause our Signatures and the General Seal of the INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS to be affixed hereto.

International Union of Operating Engineers

*John J. Conner*  
*E. H. Fitzgerald*



*This replaces charter issued and dated June 1, 1911.*

As industry and tourism steadily grew in Niagara Falls into the new century with the rising demand for industrial products and the increasing ability of people to travel, paper, rubber, plastics, petrochemicals, carbon insulators and abrasives were becoming major industries within the city. Likewise, the construction of factories, housing and hotels in the city increased dramatically during that time and into the 1910s.

In response to the subsequent need for the city's steam engineers to be organized and gain representation, the union – which had changed its name in 1897 to the **International Union of Steam Engineers** to incorporate its expansion into Canada – chartered stationary Local No. 463 on June 1, 1911, to serve the City of Niagara Falls and its stationary engineers, who operated, maintained, renovated and repaired mechanical systems.

### PROGRESSING THE LOCAL UNION

"From present indications, the healthy young fledglings in the labor movement will soon have a roll call containing all the eligible men who run stationary engines in the city."

Even before the recently organized Local 463 received its charter from the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.), it held a "rousing" gathering at the Niagara Falls **Trades and Labor Hall** on North Main Street on May 25, after which the city's *Cataract Journal* newspaper was able to give that optimistic report. That evening, the local's members elected temporary officers, including **President James W. Henry**, and it took in 12 more brother operators and declared that it would meet every Thursday night.

Following the first official meeting of the newly chartered Local 463 on June 1, 1911, which again re-established the prospects for a promising future as eight more members joined the local, the *Journal* reported on May 27:

*"A large number have made application for membership and will be obligated at the meeting to be held Thursday night. The engineers expect to have 100 percent organization of their craft in the city in a few months."*

Just a couple of months later on August 25, 1911, Brother Henry reported in the following day's *Niagara Falls Journal* that the







## TRAINING 'OILERS' CREATED SKILLED WORKFORCE

From the time Local 463 was chartered in 1911, the local has trained its apprentices as "oilers" who worked alongside journeymen operators to learn the trade as they primarily functioned to maintain the operators' rigs. (Not only did work as a fireman or oiler provide valuable training to those entering the trade, but these jobs were vital in keeping equipment running smoothly.) This on-the-job training also put them in close contact with the machinery that they might one day operate themselves.

The local did not begin its formal, four-year apprentice training program until early 1966, through which classroom study and instruction on operating equipment in the local's yard would supplement the on-the-job training received by apprentices.

To enhance the training it was providing to its apprentices, Local 463 purchased a property at 3365 Ridge Road in Ransomville, New York, during the early 1970s. The local eventually established a training center in the building on the property, which it purchased in the early 1980s, in which classes were held. (The local later added on to the building to create space for its administrative offices and union hall.)

local has a membership of 55 men, which represented about 75 percent of the city's eligible operating engineers. What's more, he declared, "the union is in good financial condition, all the members are working and conditions are exceptionally bright."

That night, the local even hosted "25 of the most prominent engineers in Buffalo" at a meeting at the Hotel Gilroy on Third Street, during which "the spirit of brotherhood prevailed throughout the evening," according to the newspaper.

During its 1912 convention, the growing international union amended its name to the **International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers** as the functions of its membership became more diverse and more construction workers came into the organization.

Meanwhile in Niagara Falls, the union



Local 463 retired member Eugene McCarthy (right), who served as the local's business manager from 1975 until April 30, 1990, stands with member Vince Burns in front of the local's training site named after Brother McCarthy at its facility in Ransomville in 1998.

operating engineers of Local 463, who by 1916 were meeting in the city's **Koeller's Hall** every Tuesday evening, remained busy with work as the city and its industries continued to expand. The United States' entrance into World War I in 1917 created numerous additional jobs building, expanding and retrofitting plants for wartime production in the city and throughout the country, and a resultant shortage of labor during the war put skilled workers in high demand.

By May 1918, the local had moved its meeting location to the **Cataract Theatre** at 29 Falls Street in downtown Niagara Falls, where it remained after the war ended in November 1918 and into 1919.

That year, as construction work in the region continued to flourish, Local 463 organized a group of stationary engineers in nearby North Tonawanda, New York, and secured a charter from the international union for them as **Local No. 463-A**. In the November 1919 issue of *The Steam Engineer*, the official journal of the International Union, the sub-local's press secretary, **Brother J. T. Raymond**, described the impetus behind its formation:



*"I floated in here a year ago this month and there were about 75 engineers busting fog and none of them organized. Clam shells, derricks, shovels, dinkey engines, etc., slamming fog everywhere and no cards. After a fellow has carried one for 15 years it does not seem right to see good engineers out of the fold."*

## ROARING, DEPRESSION AND WAR

**S**cant information pertaining to the functions and fortunes of Local 463 during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s exists. However, it is highly perceivable that the ebb and flow of the local's destiny likely ran parallel to those of the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara County and, to a lesser extent, those of the International Union, just as they often did before those decades and much of the ensuing 70 years.

For instance, throughout the so-called "Roaring" 1920s and well into the 1930s, within the union the number of hoisting and portable engineers, who operate heavy construction equipment, rose steadily as construction work began to employ steam shovels, internal combustion engines, electric motors and hydraulic machinery – although stationary engineers such as those primarily represented by Local 463 remained the majority within the I.U.O.E. As those advancements and others took over more of the work of the engineers, in 1928 the union dropped "steam" from its name and became the **International Union of Operating Engineers** (I.U.O.E.).

*(Meanwhile, in 1927, the international union had absorbed the Brotherhood of Steam Shovel Operators and Dredgemen, ending a history of jurisdictional disputes between the two unions that had been ongoing since the time they were both founded in 1896.)*

Local 463 officers sometime during the late 1950s: (left to right) J. Feeley, G. Kenine, G. Hughes, J. Smith, G. Meyers, J. Plotner, G. McDonald, M. McCollum, and F. Bradley.







Local 463 brother Pete Quinn at work in 1956.

Eventually, the number of hoisting and portable engineers in the I.U.O.E. union surpassed the stationary engineers in 1939.

A similar fate seemed to bestow the Niagara Falls local as it was re-issued a charter by the I.U.O.E. on December 31, 1938, that re-designated its craft jurisdiction as **“Hoisting and Portable”** engineers. The union also assigned Local 463 – which at some point before that time had absorbed its sub-local and North Tonawanda into its territory – with jurisdiction over Niagara County “and all of the cities and towns therein.”

The **Great Depression** of the 1930s, which officially began with the Wall Street stock-market collapse of October 29, 1929 (history’s “Black Tuesday”), hit operating engineers particularly hard. As a result, membership in the I.U.O.E. between July 1930 and July 1933 fell from 33,705 to 21,502.

But President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal” program, officially known as the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, established

agencies that created jobs for millions of people in the United States and Western New York. Several of those new entities, such as the Civil Works Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) and the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), focused on road construction and public works projects that created much-needed work for the operating engineers.

Another consequence of the New Deal was the I.U.O.E.’s increased resolve to establish branch locals, as already-established members saw the influx of would-be engineers working those federally funded jobs as a threat to their authority within their respective locals. (*Branch locals had become official within the International Union in 1920 as its equivalent of the formal apprenticeship programs of other trades.*)

Subsequently, Local 463 created branch **Local No. 463-A** during the late 1930s as its “apprentice local” of member oilers, who worked on oiling and maintaining machinery being operated by journeyman members while learning the trade, and firemen, who fired



and maintained boilers for equipment being operated by journeyman members while also learning the trade.

The involvement of the United States in **World War II**, and especially after it officially entered the war following the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, would keep operating engineers in Niagara Falls and around the country busy on defense projects through to the war’s end in September 1945. The abundance of war-materiel production jobs and the federal War Labor Board’s “maintenance of membership policy,” by which all employees at a unionized workplace were required to join the union as dues-paying member, generated a surge in growth in the I.U.O.E.

The many industrial plants of Niagara Falls likewise provided abundant wartime-related employment to the area, including construction work to build, expand and maintain those factories. For instance, one of the area’s largest employers, Bell Aircraft, “contributed to more than 30,000 aircraft for America and its allies,” according to *Niagara Falls in World War II*. Similarly, the city’s many chemical plants were expanded to do their



A crane owned by Local 463 partner contractor LaSalle Steel is put to work on an expansion of the Ransomville Hospital in 1957.

## LOCAL 463 BUSINESS MANAGERS

Prior to August 1966, the business affairs of Local 463 were primarily handled by a part-time president until the local instituted the position of business manager.

**J. Murray Rae**

1962 into 1967

**Eugene McCarthy Sr.**

1967 into 1975

**Eugene McCarthy Jr.**

1975 into 1990

**George McCollum**

1990 into 1996

**John “Ed” Lozaw**

1996 into 1997

**Clyde J. Johnston Jr.**

1997 into 2009

**Paul McCollum**

2009 into 2017

**Lyle K. Evans**

2017 to April 2019

## LOCAL 463 BUSINESS AGENTS

**Eugene McCarthy Sr.**

1962 into 1967

**Eugene McCarthy Jr.**

1967 into 1975

**Bob House**

1975 into 1990

**John “Ed” Lozaw**

1990 into 1996

**Clyde J. Johnston Jr.**

1996 into 1997

**Lonnie “Rich” Baker**

1997 into 1998

**Paul McCollum**

1998 into 2009

**Lyle K. Evans**

2009 into 2017

**Mark Printup**

2017 to April 2019





part, including Carborundum, which was a predominant local facility for the atomic-bomb-producing Manhattan Project, while the **Union Carbide** "Electrometallurgical Works" in Niagara Falls handled and produced hundreds of thousands of pounds of Uranium metal, according to the book.

Following World War II and during the second half of the 1940s, by which time Local 463 had moved to a new location at the **Elks Lodge** at 129 Main Street in Niagara Falls, the sudden drop-off in the high demand to build and expand military and war-production facilities created a period of marked unemployment for operating engineers. That condition seemingly affected Local 463, as the local's meeting minutes from October 23, 1947, indicate it had been experiencing some financial difficulties. Subsequently, during that meeting, the local adopted a motion to assess each of its journeymen \$1 per week and each of its apprentices 75 cents per week until the local's "financial status was back to normal."

Two years later, the local's executive board during its October 20, 1949, meeting moved that it was "absolutely necessary that Local Union 463 reduce expenses."

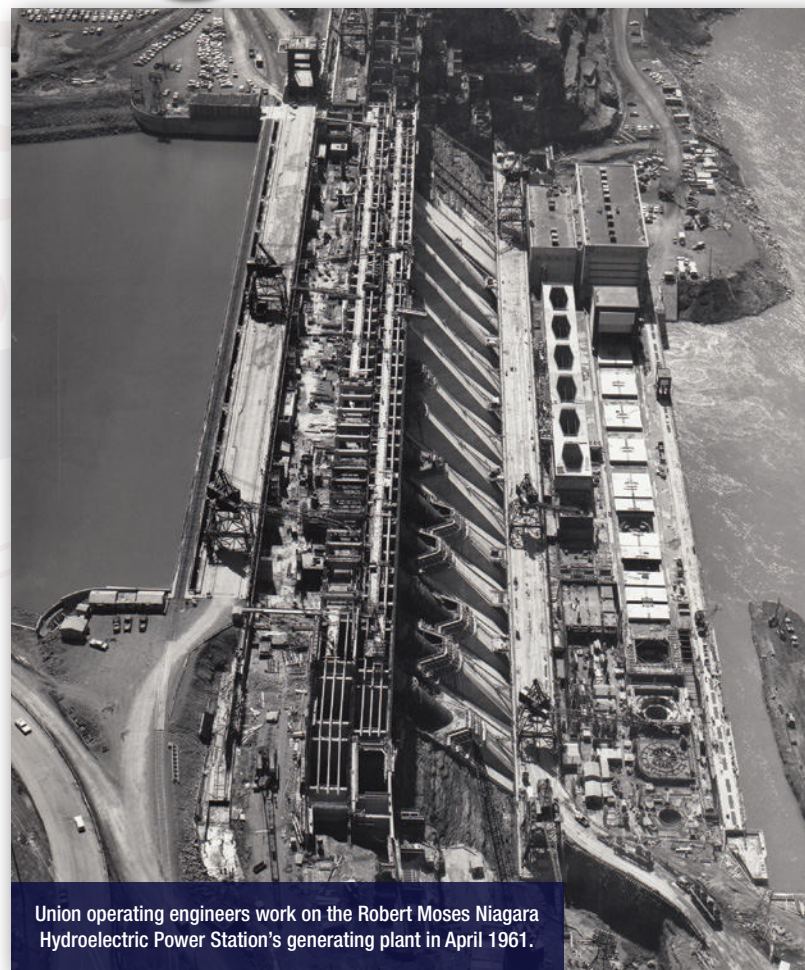
### SLOW START TO POWERFUL FINISH

Local 463's difficult financial situation continued into the 1950s as work remained lackluster. With a membership of 90 engineers and 43 apprentices as of January 1, 1950, on April 1 of that year, the local's desk and filing cabinet were moved from

the Elks building to the **V.F.W. Hall** at 8424 Buffalo Avenue.

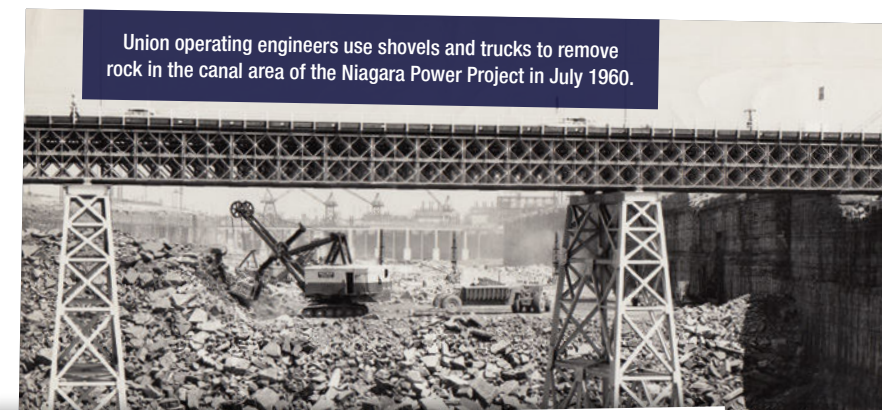
Then during contract negotiations that May, the local gained a 12-1/2-cent-per-hour increase to its journeyman operators wage scale that raised it to \$2.52-1/2 per hour. Oiler and fireman apprentices were provided with 5-cent hourly raises.

Also as that decade began, some members of Local 463 were regularly operating heavy equipment at **Lafarge's Lockport Quarry**, which was (and remains) an important supplier of materials for construction. Meanwhile, the local made great progress in organizing workers in the multiple quarry and blacktop plants around Niagara Falls and Niagara County. Subsequently, during its June 1, 1950, meeting, the local approved a motion



Union operating engineers work on the Robert Moses Niagara Hydroelectric Power Station's generating plant in April 1961.

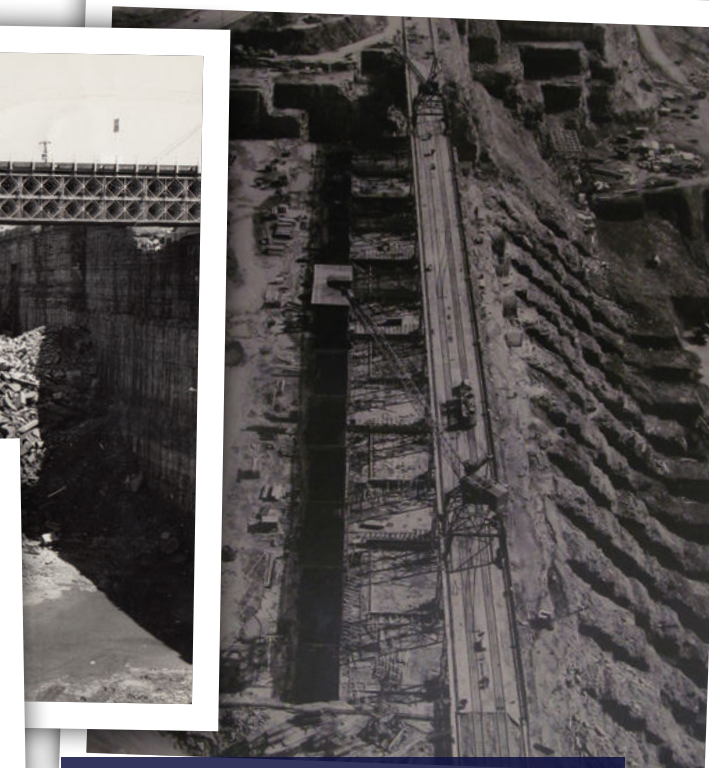
## BUILDING THE NIAGARA POWER PROJECT



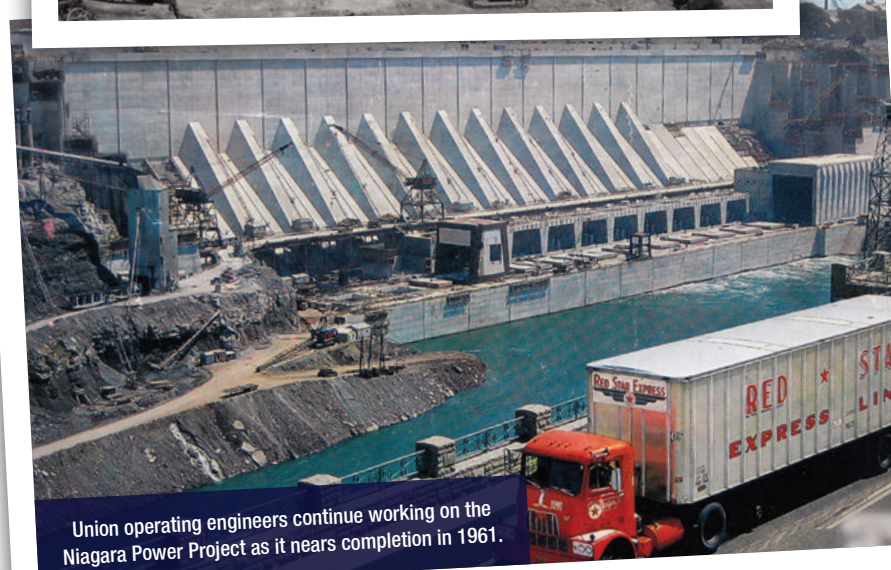
Union operating engineers use shovels and trucks to remove rock in the canal area of the Niagara Power Project in July 1960.



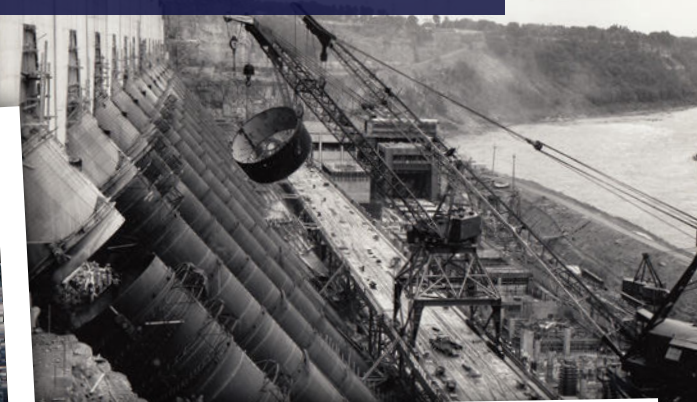
Union operating engineers near completion in September 1960 of excavation and removal of rock from fifth lift of the power canal built for the Niagara Power Project.



Local 463 members help build the Robert Moses Niagara Hydroelectric Power Station on the Niagara River during 1960.



Union operating engineers continue working on the Niagara Power Project as it nears completion in 1961.



A Local 463 member operates a 3000 Manitowoc crane during construction of the Robert Moses Niagara Hydroelectric Power Station during the early 1960s.





Members attend a Local 463 party in 1966.

to send \$25 to the I.U.O.E. for a charter for branch **Local No. 463-B** to represent quarry and blacktop employees.

Chemical plants in the local's jurisdiction such as **DuPont** and Union Carbide also began expanding again during that time, which would provide new employment for Local 463 members throughout the decade.

A few years later, seeking to not only supply its membership with additional work opportunities but also to protect the region's power-generating industry – and those local industries that relied on it – during its March 2, 1954, general membership meeting, Local 463 passed a motion to “go on record for private enterprise to develop power in the Niagara Frontier.”

Two years later in 1956, two-thirds of the outdated **Schoellkopf Power Plant**, located on the lower river just downstream of the American Falls, was destroyed when the Niagara Gorge wall above it collapsed. The loss of the generating station prompted the U.S. Congress the next year to pass the Niagara Redevelopment Act, “which granted the **New York Power Authority** (N.Y.P.A.) a federal license to fully develop the United States' share of the Niagara River's hydroelectric potential,” according to the Power Authority.

The N.Y.P.A. began construction of the nearly \$800 million **Niagara Power Project** in 1957, on which union operating engineers worked from its beginning until it was fully completed in 1963. Local 463 supplied more than 400 members and hosted more than 1,000 additional operating engineers out of I.U.O.E. locals from across the country over the lifespan of the project to fulfill its large manpower needs.

In helping to build the project's **Robert Moses Niagara Hydroelectric Power Station** and the **Lewiston Pump Generating Plant**, along with a man-made, 1,900-acre reservoir in Lewiston, New York, the union operating engineers ran various cranes and steam shovels to perform work that included digging out the large underground tunnels for conduit through which water from the upper Niagara River would run into the power plant and then back into the lower river. Other jobs included setting steel, pouring concrete and moving machinery and earth (over 12 million cubic yards of rock were excavated during construction) – all while work continued in non-stop shifts, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Among some of the issues that arose during construction, about 40 member operators of Local 463 staged a three-day walkout from



September 3 to 5, 1958, over “a number of grievances,” although no pickets were posted and the local declared the men were not on strike, according to a September 6 Associated Press report. After idling about 750 construction-trades workers in all over the three days, the local and the contractor, Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corporation, reached an agreement on issues including overtime pay and distribution of work.

That year, with the Niagara Power Project requiring more engineers, Local 463 gained a charter from the I.U.O.E. for its branch **Local No. 463-C**, which would serve engineers who were not full journeyman members of the union. Then by the following year, the local moved its meeting place and offices into a new union hall at **2733 Niagara Street** in the city, where it would remain for the next two decades.

The Niagara Power Project opened in 1961 as the largest hydropower facility in the Western world, with a combined 25 turbines spun by 748,000 gallons of water per second, according to the N.Y.P.A. It came to an official close when

its Power Vista Center building was dedicated on July 19, 1963, and decades later in 2019, Robert Moses is the biggest electricity producer in New York State, generating 2.4-million kilowatts, according to the Power Authority.

### INSURANCE PLAN TO POWER PLANT

Throughout the final years of the 1950s and the first half of the 1960s, Local 463 members remained busy with work in their jurisdiction. Following the completion of the Niagara Power Project, a large amount of smaller jobs as well as the construction of roads, as was often the norm, continued to provide manhours for the local.

What's more, while seasonal work slowed employment because of poor weather during the winter months, as was often the case, most all of the operating engineer work performed in Niagara County was union. With little non-union competition, the local's membership regularly enjoyed full employment.

With those favorable conditions persisting, during the local's meeting on August 31, 1965, the



Local 463 members (highlighted, left to right) Duke Calvert, Butch Raming and Gary Walker attend a joint training class for I.U.O.E. members at a Boy Scout camp in Naples, New York, from March 1 to April 12, 1967.



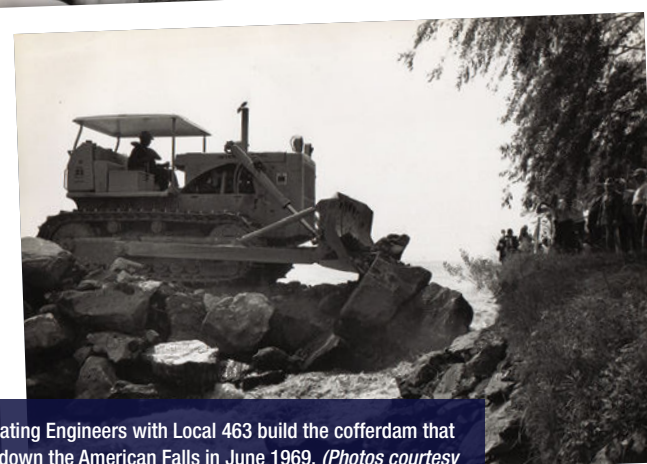


# LOCAL 463 TURNED OFF THE FALLS

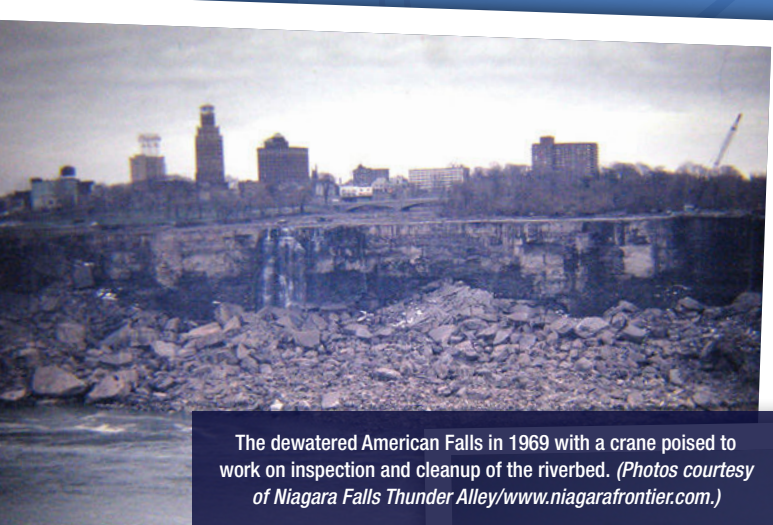
For more than five months in 1969, the American Falls, one of three waterfalls that makes up Niagara Falls, was turned off so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers could study the geological composition of the falls and, if necessary, project potential erosion or destruction. In order for the investigation to take place, Local 463 operating engineers working for Albert Elia Construction Company of Niagara Falls built a cofferdam upstream to shut down the flow of water to the falls.

Over three days in June 1969, more than 1,200 trucks dumped nearly 28,000 tons of rocky fill into the 600-foot-long cofferdam that ran from mainland Niagara Falls, New York, to the head of Goat Island, diverting the Niagara River away from the American Falls and toward the Canadian-side Horseshoe Falls. Afterwards, the operating engineers helped clean the surface of the river bed, scale loose rock from the face of the Falls and install a water-spray system.

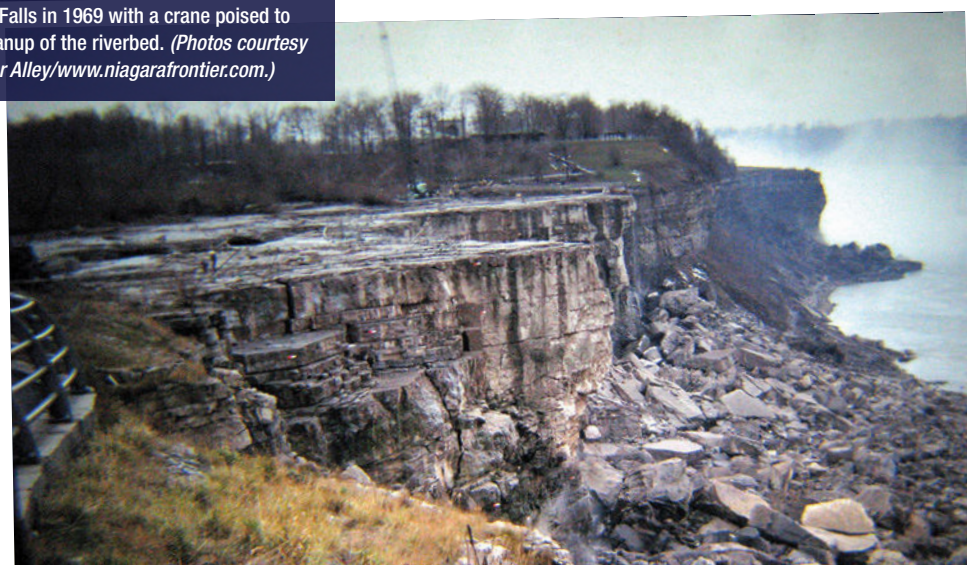
According to the Niagara Falls Gazette, the engineers sealed the cofferdam completely on the morning of June 12, 1969, at which time the dam was holding back the 8-foot-deep water of the Niagara River. On the morning of November 25, the engineers lifted out the cofferdam and water began flowing again over the American Falls.



Operating Engineers with Local 463 build the cofferdam that shut down the American Falls in June 1969. (Photos courtesy of Niagara Falls Thunder Alley/www.niagarafontier.com.)



The dewatered American Falls in 1969 with a crane poised to work on inspection and cleanup of the riverbed. (Photos courtesy of Niagara Falls Thunder Alley/www.niagarafontier.com.)



membership in attendance voted, 59 to 36, for a \$2 assessment per month to be levied on all members during the summer months (when employment was most abundant) to fund an **Insurance Plan**. After nearly four years of discussion on instituting insurance for its members, the new plan was put into effect immediately.

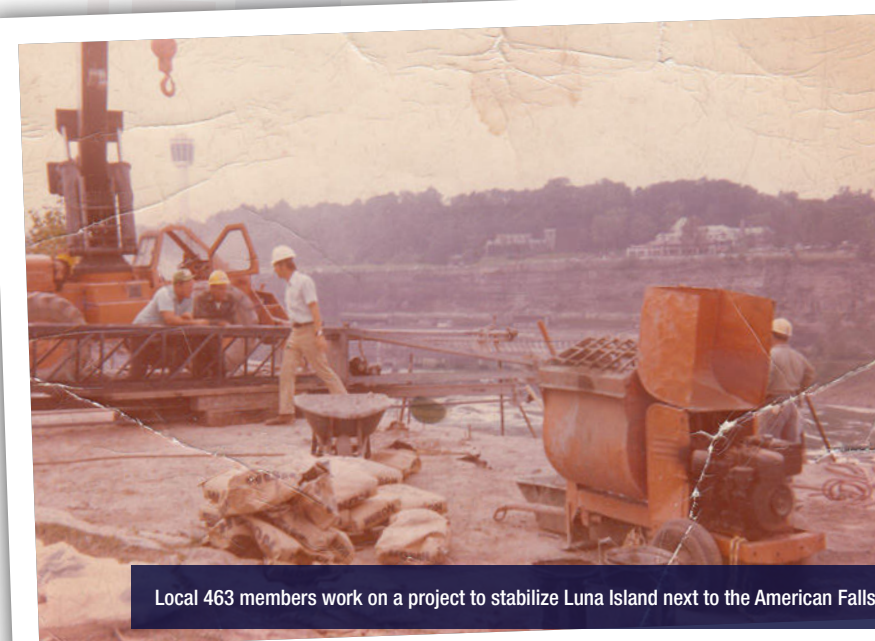
The following February, its growing membership reached 630 operating engineers and apprentices in the local and its branches. That summer, as work remained strong with projects such as construction of a bridge in North Tonawanda, the local began a new **hiring hall** procedure by which contractors signatory to the local's collective-bargaining agreement had to go through the union hall to acquire skilled workers. That September, newly elected **Business Manager J. Murray Rae** announced during a general membership meeting that the hiring hall was "the only fair way to divide up the work."

Into 1968 and through the early 1970s, the local's more than 600 members continued to benefit from the good work situation. At one point in 1971, in fact, the local did not have enough hydraulic backhoe operators to supply jobs and had to use a couple of "permit men"

(non-union operators who paid a fee to the local to be able to work on the union jobsites).

During that time, many members were working in the area's numerous rock quarries, which would remain a staple of employment for the local. Other significant jobs on which the local's members worked going into and during the early 1970s included erection of the new **Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Center** and sewer lines connecting into it, and the new wastewater treatment plant in Lewiston, New York. Simultaneously, Niagara Falls-based chemical and industrial plants such as Carborundum continued to expand and upgrade, putting more operating engineers to work.

Later that decade, Local 463 operating engineers became involved in constructing new chemical-waste disposal areas and built the first hazardous-waste treatment storage and disposal landfill in the region for **CECOS International** in 1977. Straddling 385 acres between the Town of Niagara and a portion of Niagara Falls, the toxic dump would soon after be the site of a multi-million dollar cleanup effort spearheaded by Local 463 operating engineers – a task in which the local's members



Local 463 members work on a project to stabilize Luna Island next to the American Falls in 1972.







Local 463 members work on the Love Canal toxic-waste cleanup project in 1979.

would regularly be engaged as they worked to cleanup a destructive legacy of chemical and toxic waste dumping in Niagara County.

In the interim, in 1979 the local moved to its final union hall at **3365 Ridge Road** in Ransomville, New York.

Soon after, construction of the **Kintigh Generating Station** in Somerset, New York, began in 1980 and put Local 463 members and operating engineers from all over the country to work for the next four years. With the union operators on the job, the 675-megawatt coal-fired power plant, which was owned by AES Corporation (and is now owned by Upstate New York Power Producers), went into service ahead of schedule and under budget, according to the November 6, 1984, *Lakeland Ledger*.

However, work was scarce after completion of the Somerset power plant. Some smaller jobs sustained the local in the interim, and a large waterline project in Niagara County during the late 1980s also helped employ members.

### CLEANING NIAGARA'S TOXIC MESS

**B**y the late 1970s, Niagara County's extensive history of manufacturing, chemical processing and other heavy industrial operations had begun to create what would grow into a strong category of work for Local 463 operating engineers: **hazardous waste remediation**. Over the next three-plus decades, upwards of 90 percent of the local's members would be employed at some time or another on work at the region's landfills while performing chemical waste management, for which the operating engineers would construct new waste holding cells and cap them.

With chemical dumps littering a large swath of the county, the enormous amount of cleanup work kept the local busy into and throughout the 2000s. Foremost of those toxic cleanup projects was the infamous **Love Canal** chemical disposal site in Niagara Falls, which **Business Manager Paul McCollum** referenced in a September 24, 2014, letter to the chief administrative law judge of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation,



Office of Hearings and Mediation Services in addressing the local's wealth of experience in dealing with the sites:

*"These heavy industries created a significant amount of hazardous waste. As the technologies of the industrial age progressed rapidly, not much thought was given to the disposal of the resulting waste products, and the ramifications of improper disposal. Most waste disposed of that era consisted of dumping the waste wherever was convenient, or possibly digging a hole, dumping and burying the waste. This is how we ended up having sites such as the Love Canal, which helped spawn the whole hazardous waste remediation industry. Our Operating Engineers have worked at many uncontrolled hazardous waste sites since the Love Canal cleanup*

*of the late 1970s, such as the Hyde Park landfill, Frontier Chemical, Petitt Creek Flume, Occidental's 102nd Landfill and "S" Area, plus many others."*

Beginning in the 1920s, industrial waste was dumped into the abandoned Love Canal waterway that had been partially dug before the turn of the 20th Century as part of the failed development of the Local Canal planned community. By 1952, Hooker Chemical Company (which would become Occidental Chemical Corporation) had disposed of over 22,000 tons of dangerous chemicals into the toxic waste dump, according to *Niagara Falls for Everybody*, and covered the canal with clay "to prevent the leakage of chemicals."

When a City of Niagara Falls school and a new housing development were built on the 70-acre site in the mid-1950s, construction caused the chemicals to leak into the ground and seep into



Local 463 brothers (left to right) Tim Slattery, Walt Balcerzak and Herb Allen take a break while working on construction of the Kintigh Generating Station in Somerset, New York, in 1980.

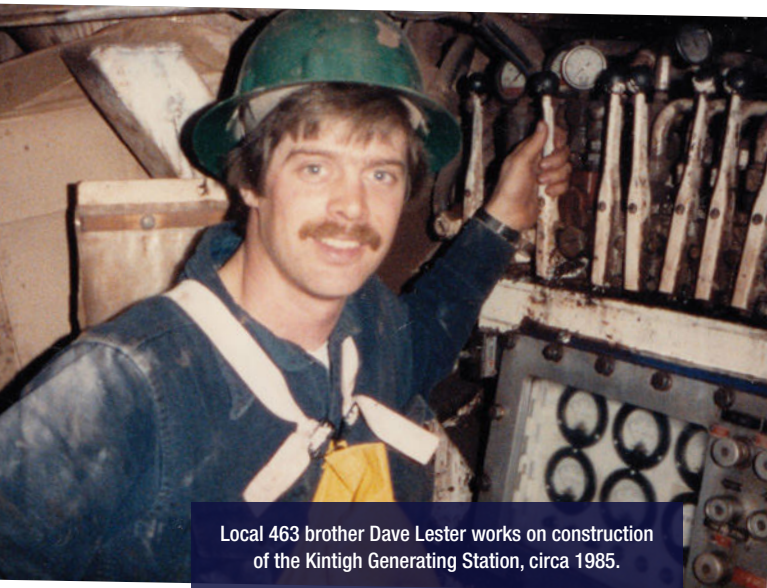




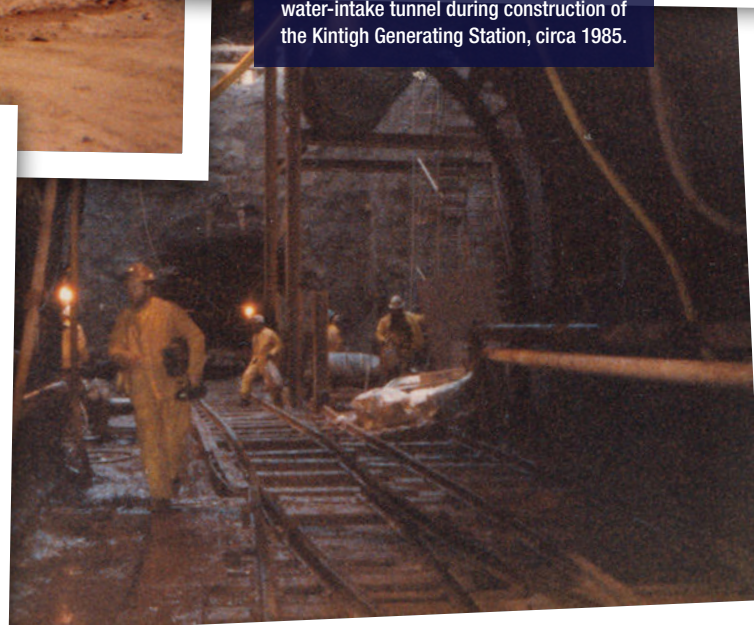
Local 463 members help build the Kintigh Generating Station in Somerset, New York, in 1981.



Local 463 members cut and construct a water-intake tunnel during construction of the Kintigh Generating Station, circa 1985.



Local 463 brother Dave Lester works on construction of the Kintigh Generating Station, circa 1985.



the water, resulting in a “massive environmental pollution disaster harming the health of hundreds of residents,” according to *Love Canal – Public Health Time Bomb*, a special report presented to the New York State governor and legislature by the state’s Department of Health in September 1978. That year, President Jimmy Carter declared Love Canal a disaster zone, after which hundreds of families were relocated.

Remediation of the Love Canal toxic waste site in Niagara Falls culminated in an intensive Superfund cleanup operation in which Local 463 operating engineers were extensively involved until its completion in 2004. The members helped demolish the neighborhood and rebury the most toxic area with a thick plastic liner, clay and dirt. Afterwards, according to the book *Hush Hush: The Dark Secrets of Scientific Research*, it was calculated that 248 separate chemicals, including 130 pounds of dioxin, were unearthed from the canal.

As part of the work at Love Canal, members of Local 463 and Laborers Union Local No. 91 were involved in the excavation work at the creek beds and in the processing of the soil. Additionally, the soil was screened to remove large material, dried and placed in 4,500-pound “super sacks” that were specially designed to hold toxic waste. The supersacks were transported to two warehouses on Occidental Chemical’s premises that were specifically built to store the material until an incineration facility was built there.

In preparation for the work, employees represented by Local 463 participated in a 40-hour training course designed to cover all the systems and problems that the average operating engineer would encounter in a job involving hazardous waste, pursuant to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. The course included instruction by Red Cross personnel, and yearly “refresher courses” were required for recertification.



Local 463 brothers (left to right) Don Stock, Ian MacDougall, Rich Baker, Robin Baker and Lloyd Harding at work on a project at M&K Industries in Niagara, circa 1982.





Local 463 brother Rich Baker works at the CECOS International hazardous-waste landfill in 1984.



Local 463 members work at the CECOS International hazardous-waste landfill in Niagara Falls in 1984.

As the local's members remained busy building and capping landfills in the region well into the new "Y2K" millennium, among the most significant locations which it helped construct and remediate was the **CWM Chemical Services** landfill in the late 1980s, which would close in 2015 after it reached capacity (before which it was the only one of a dozen landfills that accepted Polychlorinated Biphenyls – PCBs – a probable human carcinogen).

Then in 1990, Local 463 members became involved in remediating and maintaining the CECOS site, which was being shut down; and in the early 2000s, the operating engineers began working on the **Niagara Falls Storage**

**Site** in Porter and Lewiston in which tons of radioactive material left over from the Manhattan Project, the World War II effort that created the first atomic bomb, were poured into the ground. (Two decades earlier in the 1980s, the local's members had demolished a water tower holding radioactive residue and transferred its contents to the basement of a nearby war-era building, where they were covered with five-and-a-half feet of clay and topsoil.)

By 1990, Local 463's experience with remediation and creation of chemical-waste dumps had become so extensive that the National Labor Relations Board (N.L.R.B.) on March 28 of that year ruled in favor of the operating engineers (and Laborers Local 91) in a dispute over who would handle transporting the supersacks of chemical waste from Love Canal. In its decision in favor of the locals over Occidental Chemical Corporation, which was cleaning the site, and Niagara Hooker Employees Union, N.L.R.B. officials wrote, "We reach this conclusion relying on the factors of company assignment and preference, relative skills and safety, and economy and efficiency of operations."

Similarly, 24 years later, Brother McCollum wrote of Local 463 in his letter to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Hearings and Mediation Services:

*"Along with remediation, we have worked with responsible owners such as CWM to build new secure landfills so that future waste can be disposed of in a fashion that will not cause harm to the surrounding environment or the community."*



## A GOOD RUN TO THE FINISH LINE

The large amount of landfill and quarry work in the region continued for Local 463 into and throughout the 1990s. Its members were also busy during the decade with many smaller jobs and a large amount of roadwork, as well as upgrades to the dwindling number of chemical plants in Niagara Falls.

During those changing times, **Brother Clyde Johnston Jr.** was elected business manager of the local in 1997. Among its activities, his administration took on the finances of the local and before he stepped down in 2008 turned it into a million-dollar organization – even as the City of Niagara Falls continued to lose manufacturing jobs and experience rampant unemployment that had led to a population loss of more than half its residents by 2000 over just 30 years earlier, according to *Niagara Falls for Everybody*.

Regardless, Local 463 powered into and through the new millennium while working on landmark construction jobs within its jurisdiction, including the new, \$80-million **Niagara Falls High School** built beginning in 1999 under a union-friendly Project Labor

## FIRST WOMEN JOINED IN 1992

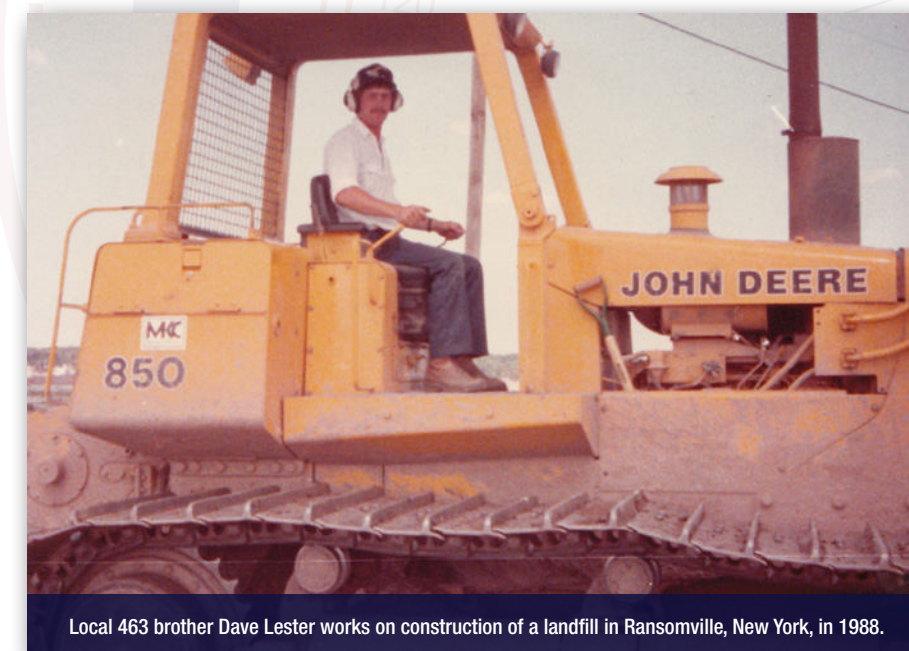
Local 463 sisters Faye Olds and Amy Mentley became the local's first two female members when they entered the union as apprentices in 1992.



Local 463 member Faye Olds works on construction of a bridge in Orchard Park, New York, in 2014.

Agreement (P.L.A.) secured through the Niagara County Building Trades Council, for which Brother Johnston served as president. Once completed in 2000, the new school on Porter Road became the city's only public high school after the merging of the former Niagara Falls High School and LaSalle Senior High School into one location.

During that time, the union operating engineers also helped construct the new **Seneca Niagara Casino** that opened on December 31, 2002, less than two years after ground was broken. Built under a P.L.A., the casino and its 26-story luxury-hotel tower became the tallest building in Niagara Falls once completed. "We



Local 463 brother Dave Lester works on construction of a landfill in Ransomville, New York, in 1988.





## Zoo Lake Named For Local 463 Member

On August 19, 1997, the Niagara County Legislature posthumously honored Local 463 member Brother Ian "Mac" MacDougall for his yeoman volunteer work on the county's Oppenheim Zoo Lake Project in the early 1990s by naming the zoo's man-made lake he helped construct "Lake MacDougall." While retired at the time, Brother MacDougall served as the volunteer master mechanic on the Zoo Lake Project, which ran from 1992 to 1996, coordinating and running the job until his untimely death on May 25, 1994.

Another retiree, Brother Winslow Hunt, took over Brother MacDougall's job and finished the project.

In a ceremony after the lake was completed, a plaque affixed to a bolder at the lake site contained the words in an official proclamation from the legislature that read, in part, "In Memory of Ian 'Mac' MacDougall; A loyal member of the IUOE Local 463; For his exemplary volunteer work on the Oppenheim Park Project."

Years earlier, the Oppenheim Zoological Society had also honored Local 463 for the volunteerism and dedication of its members to the Zoo Lake Project.

are very proud to have built a piece of Western New York's future," Brother Johnston declared at the time. "This project is proof of what our region can accomplish."

Meanwhile, Local 463 members worked on one of the most iconic projects with which the local has ever been involved: a complete, \$20-million refurbishment of the **Prospect Point Observation Tower** (also known as the Niagara Falls Observation Tower) beginning in 2001. When completed in 2003, improvements to the tower, which was originally built from 1958 to 1961, included a pre-cast concrete-plank observation deck and new, high-speed elevators.



The official dedication ceremony for Lake MacDougall, named in honor of Local 463 member Ian "Mac" MacDougall, in 1997 was attended by Local 463 retirees Steven Capuson (holding banner, left) and Winslow "Sonny" Hunt (holding banner, right) and (back row, left to right) legislator William Ross; sons Michael, William and Robert MacDougall; legislator Clyde Burmaster; retiree Lloyd Murray; Business Manager Clyde Johnston Jr.; retiree Lawrence Siegrist; member David Lester; retiree Robert Kennedy; member Vincent Burns; and retired Business Manager John "Ed" Lozaw.

To accomplish the unique renovation, the operating engineers ran a 2250 Manitowoc conventional crane with a 375-foot boom to pull the larger debris out of the gorge and lower equipment into it. In the end, 300 tons of steel, 1,500 tons of concrete and 700 tons of stone were hoisted out by crane.

That year, the local's members also helped install \$11 million in apron and landside



The Local 463 Executive Board elected in August 1990 consisted of (left to right) brothers Robert Kennedy, Don Slattery, David Lester, Tom Pivka, Fred Arch, Neil Brown, Clyde J. Johnston Jr., George McCollum, Peter Dinsmore, Winslow "Sonny" Hunt, John "Ed" Lozaw, Thomas Sutton, Dick Learman and Lawrence Siegrist.



Local 463 members Sam Hope (left) and Al Black work on construction of the Lockport Bypass highway bypassing downtown Lockport, New York, in 1990.

improvements at the growing **Niagara Falls International Airport**, which lengthened its runway to 9,825 feet – making it one of the longest in New York State. Six years later in August 2009, the operating engineers would help complete the airport's new, state-of-the-art, \$31.5-million passenger terminal.

The strong employment of the late 2000s was further boosted with the two-phase construction of a \$150-million, six-structure **Yahoo! Data Center** within the Town of Lockport's Industrial Business Park that was completed in 2010 and the construction of the new, \$80-million City of Niagara Falls **Public Safety Building** under a P.L.A. in 2008.

Additional jobs that maintained the good work situation for Local 463 in 2009 and 2010 included the **New York Power Authority Warehouse Project** located across from Niagara University in Lewiston; the **Townline Road Reconstruction Project** in Wheatfield, New York; and a 2009 retrofit at the Kintigh Generating Station that involved removing and cleaning turbines and putting them back in place.



Local 463 members help build a new hotel in downtown Niagara Falls in 1994.





## LOCAL EARNED COMMUNITY AWARD

On March 18, 2000, the Niagara Falls' Pine Avenue Business Association presented Local 463 with a "Pillars of Our Community" award, along with six other area building-trades unions (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 237, Laborers Local No. 91, Carpenters and Millwrights Local No. 280, Plasterers and Cement Masons Local No. 111, Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers Local No. 45 and Iron Workers Local No. 9).

Beginning in 2009, however, construction work steadily declined within the Local 463 jurisdiction and would remain stagnant from 2010 through 2012, constituting the slowest period of work in the Niagara area's construction industry in over 20 years.

But employment for the local's 300-some members picked back up again in 2012, and by 2015, western New York was in the throes of its biggest construction windfall in decades, propelled by a number of projects under P.L.A.s. Among those was the new, \$44-million **Niagara Falls International Railway Station**, while other major construction projects across Niagara County that were underway by early 2012 and employing Local 463 members included the new, \$17.1 million **Hospitality & Tourism Center and Niagara Falls Culinary Institute** in the Rainbow Centre Mall; the new, \$23.5 million, 50,000-square-foot **Science**



Local 463 Business Manager John "Ed" Lozaw stands with the local's former office managers, Joan Morgan (left) and Diane Christman (right), who preceded the local's last office manager, Tammy Payne, before she took over in April 2018.



Local 463 members place an automobile display on the roof of the new Hard Rock Cafe in Niagara Falls in 1996.

**Building** at Niagara University; multi-million-dollar runway renovations at the Niagara Falls Air Force Base; and a large amount of road-improvement work.

Then on April 1, 2013, Local 463 members began construction of the new **Maid of the Mist dry dock and maintenance facility** on the banks of the Niagara River. "This is one of those signature projects that you will look back on and say you really accomplished something," Business Manager McCollum told *Western New York Labor Today*. The more than \$30-million project employed about 20 operating engineers, who performed rough excavation to prepare the site for construction of a concrete docking facility and used a 660-ton Manitowoc crane to transport machinery, materials and workers down to the river's edge in the gorge 200 feet below.



"This is not your typical construction project because of the logistics of the site itself," Brother McCollum said at the time. To help ensure the welfare of its members, Local 463 provided special safety training for those working on the all-union job which when completed featured a 30,000-square-foot concrete pad large enough to store two tour boats and two floating docks.

Into 2015, the local's members remained busy working at several high profile projects that included the multi-million-dollar major

## LOCAL 463 HELPED BUILD VETS MEMORIALS

Proud members of Local 463 participated in building two very notable Niagara Falls area veterans memorials.

Members contributed to the installation of the nationally famous U.S. Navy Seabee (Construction Battalion) memorial in Fisherman's Park in North Tonawanda, New York, on the shores of the Niagara River just a few miles from Niagara Falls. The memorial was officially dedicated on June 8, 1996, by Rear Admiral David J. Nash, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and chief of the Civil Engineers, the officer in charge of all U.S. Naval construction forces.

Former Local 463 member Brother George McCollum was a U.S. Navy Seabee.

Later, members also helped erect the Niagara Falls Veterans Memorial located in the city's Hyde Park, which is dedicated to the 463 members of the military who were residents from the City of Niagara Falls and gave their lives in defense of the United States. It officially opened on Memorial Day 2014 and is the largest national granite monument outside of Washington, D.C., that is dedicated to the U.S. armed services.

Much of the labor to build the monument was donated by the Niagara County Building Trades, including members of Local 463.



Local 463 members help construct the Seabee Memorial in North Tonawanda, New York, in 1996.







Local 463 members tear down the Occidental Chemical Corporation's Durez Division plant in North Tonawanda, New York, in 1997.

## EDUCATION ENSURED SAFETY FIRST

Prior to his retirement in 2017, Local 463 Business Manager Paul D. McCollum served as the local's OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Outreach Health and Safety instructor for more than 25 years, teaching classes such as 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER). He also taught many additional OSHA courses that included Excavation and Trenching, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Respiratory Protection, Emergency Response and Lockport/Tagout, Air Monitoring.

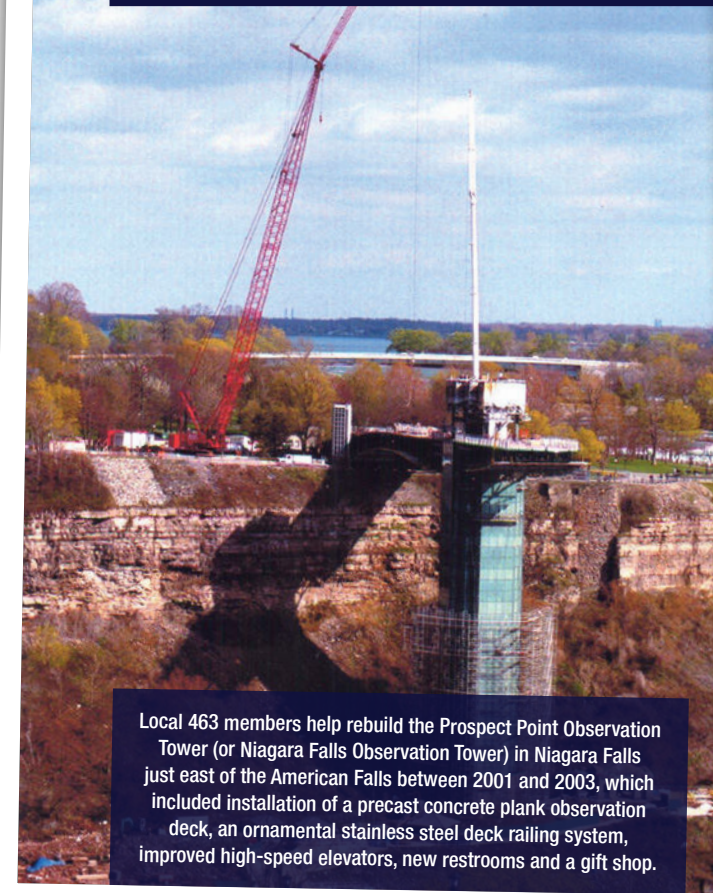
Brother McCollum noted in a September 24, 2014, letter to the chief administrative law judge of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Hearings and Mediation Services, that "the point and purpose of the various training that Local 463 provides is to assure members are able to work under constantly changing non-hazardous and hazardous conditions, to be able to identify when a hazardous condition exists, using the proper personal protective equipment so that workers may perform their jobs while protecting themselves."

green space expansion along the **Robert Moses Parkway** leading to the falls, which would be completed in 2016. They were also helping to build the new duty-free store at the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge, were involved with several major bridge replacements across Niagara County and were working on the rehabilitation of several roadways and parking lots at the **Niagara Reservation State Park** and on Goat Island.

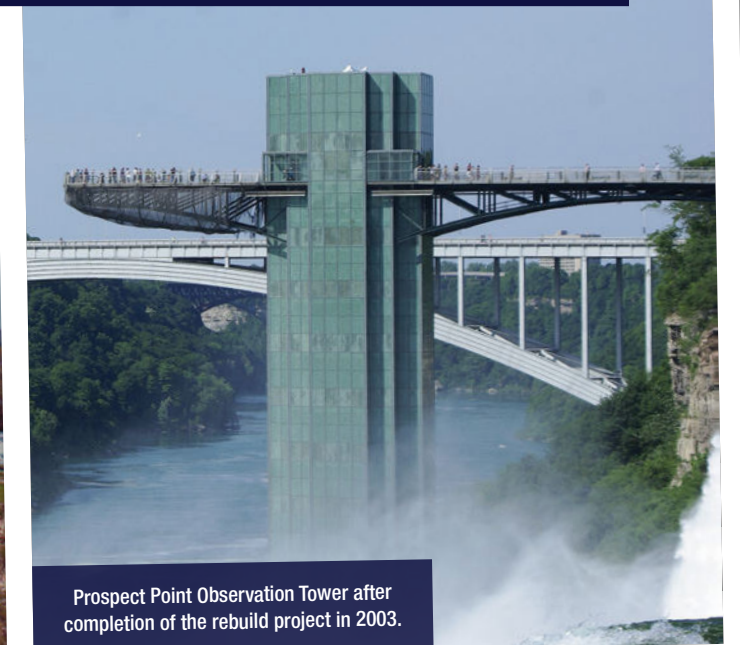
At the bargaining table, in May 2015, Local 463 reached an agreement on a contract-extension with the **Building Industry Employers Association** in Niagara County following month-long negotiations. The three-year deal that would run through 2018 featured a journeyman wage-scale increase of \$1.75 per hour for each year. Afterwards, Business Manager McCollum told the *Western New York Labor Today*, "(The employers association) is a good group to work with. We really get along with the management group and their contractors."



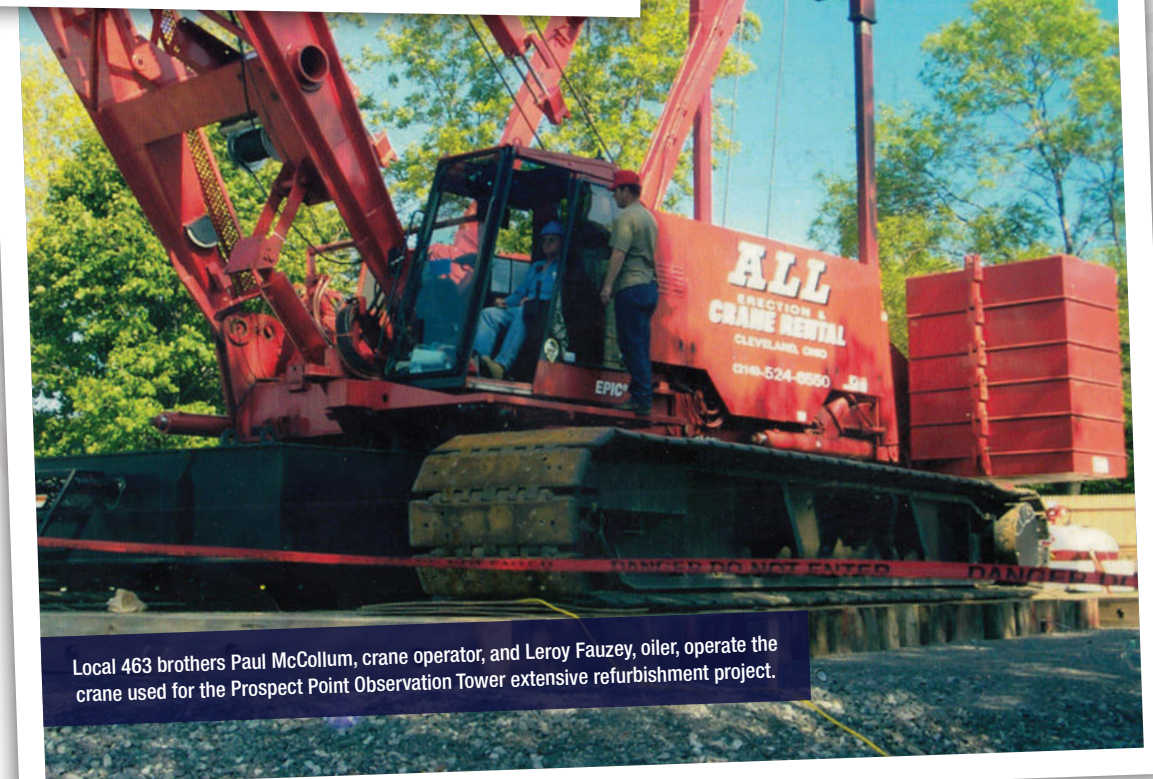
## REBUILDING OBSERVATION TOWER



Local 463 members help rebuild the Prospect Point Observation Tower (or Niagara Falls Observation Tower) in Niagara Falls just east of the American Falls between 2001 and 2003, which included installation of a precast concrete plank observation deck, an ornamental stainless steel deck railing system, improved high-speed elevators, new restrooms and a gift shop.



Prospect Point Observation Tower after completion of the rebuild project in 2003.



Local 463 brothers Paul McCollum, crane operator, and Leroy Fauzey, oiler, operate the crane used for the Prospect Point Observation Tower extensive refurbishment project.





## LOCAL CITED FOR LABOR INVOLVEMENT

In January 2017, Local 463 Business Manager Paul McCollum received the A.F.L.-C.I.O. Niagara-Orleans Labor Council's President's Award during the Council's 2017 Annual Awards Dinner in Lewiston. The award honored McCollum and Local 463 for the union's high level of involvement in the local labor movement.

The three-year extension continued a long-standing agreement between the union and the employers association. Aside from the wage increase, it contained few changes to the terms, as the local retained the same healthcare and pension plans.

## AMALGAMATION WITH LOCAL 17

With the membership of Local 463 having dwindled by early 2019 to 170 active operating engineers and apprentices, more than 20 of whom were annually working in the jurisdiction of Buffalo and Erie County **Local No. 17**, I.U.O.E. International General President James T. Callahan, acting on reports from and

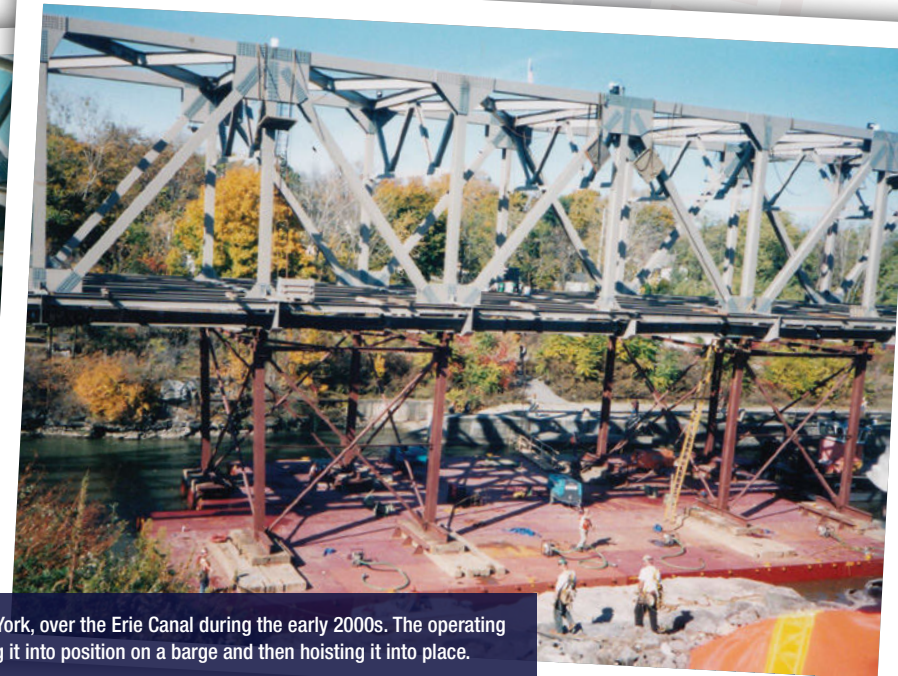
the recommendation of I.U.O.E. Northeast Regional Director Alan Pero, decided to merge Local 463 into Local 17, effective May 1, 2019.

In a March 18, 2019, letter to both locals, President Callahan explained, "This merger is necessary because Local 463 is a local decreasing in membership, with geographic jurisdiction limited to Niagara County. The industrial base in this area has continued to decline over time and infrastructure spending in Niagara County by the state of New York has remained flat or has experienced little improvement during the years." He went on to declare, "The merger will provide greater efficiency and will enhance the ability to protect the interests of the Membership of both Locals."

The amalgamation of Local 463 and Local 17, which at the time represented about 1,800 members, created a single local of 2,000 members "with significantly greater resources" to serve western New York State, President Callahan also noted. Additionally, unlike Local 463, Local 17 had a formal training program in place, he further wrote.



Local 463 members construct a 600-ton bridge in Lockport, New York, over the Erie Canal during the early 2000s. The operating engineers assembled the bridge on the ground before floating it into position on a barge and then hoisting it into place.



Local 463 members hoist a part into place during construction of an expansion to the Globe Metallurgical silicon plant in Niagara Falls in 2008.



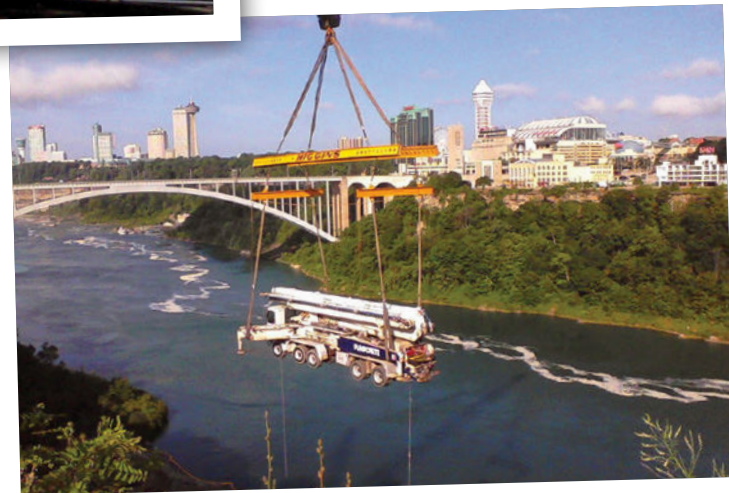
Local 463 members work on improvements to the Niagara Falls Airport in 2012.







## BUILDING THE MAID OF THE MIST FACILITY



Local 463 members help construct the new Maid of The Mist drydock and maintenance facility on the edge of the Niagara River in 2013.



Because both locals participated in the Operating Engineers Upstate Pension, Health and Welfare funds and the Central Pension Fund, the merger did not disrupt the benefits of Local 463 members. What's more, the two locals had been negotiating with many of the same contractors, and the locals already overlapped "with respect to the Stationary Charter of Local 17," President Callahan pointed out.

Once the merger took place, Local 17 assumed all obligations of Local 463, including collective bargaining for new contracts, while all Niagara Falls members became members of the Buffalo-based local without paying an initiation fee. Local 17 did retain the office and office staff of Local 463 in Ransomville.

Director Pero supervised and finalized the details of the merger, about which President Callahan also summarized, "Nothing in this Agreement of Merger or in the act of this merger should be construed by an entity whatsoever as a loss of support by the Membership of Local 463."

Indeed, throughout nearly 108 years of serving one of the world's most prominent regions and representing heavy equipment operators in Niagara County, whose members ran the backhoes, bulldozers, loaders, asphalt pavers, cranes and many other pieces of equipment that built and repaired the region's roads, bridges, infrastructure, factories and most all other buildings, I.U.O.E. Local No. 463 left behind a legacy of quality craftsmanship and dedication to its membership, contractors, industry and community. ■

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Local 463's final union hall, which also served as its training center, on Ridge Road in Ransomville, New York, into which it moved in 1980 after being located for many years in a union hall at 2733 Niagara Street.



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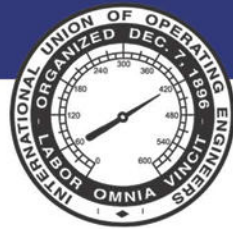
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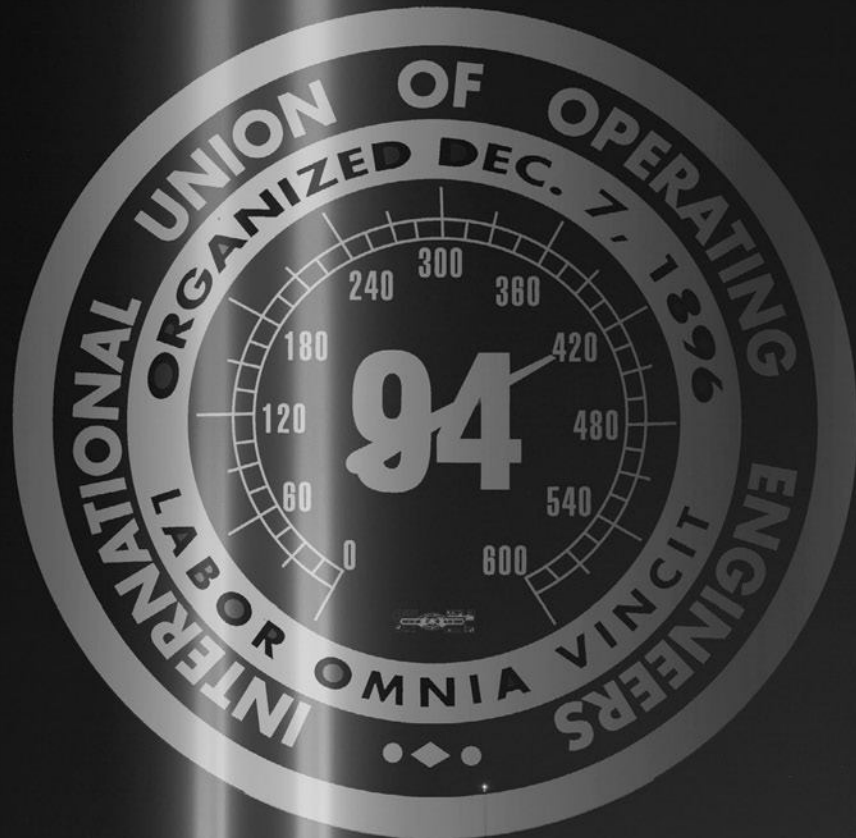
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Food and Refreshments Included - Each person in attendance must have a ticket  
For main ticket prizes 1-21, winners need not be present to win.  
Winner receives a gift certificate for the gun, store credit equivalent, or cash. Some guns may NOT be readily available and need to be ordered. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days of raffle. Unclaimed prizes will become property of Cambria VFC. Federal Law requires a passed NICS background check to receive firearms. Handgun winners must show valid permits or gift card will be provided.

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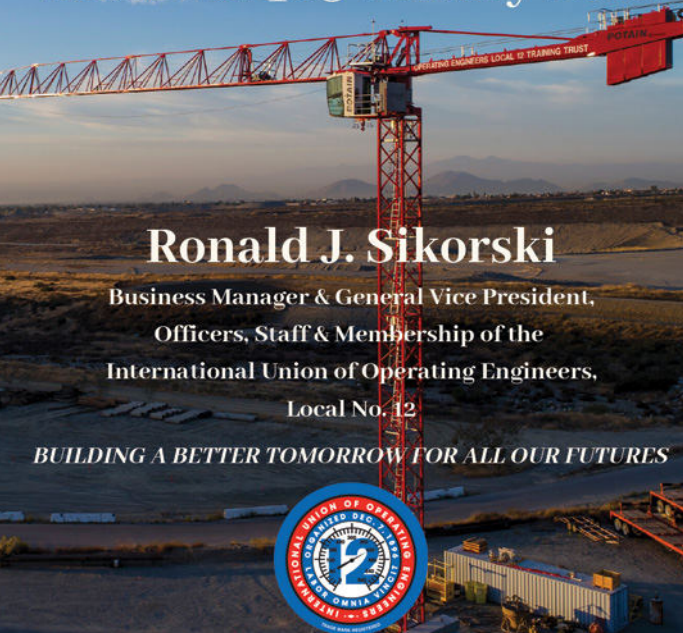
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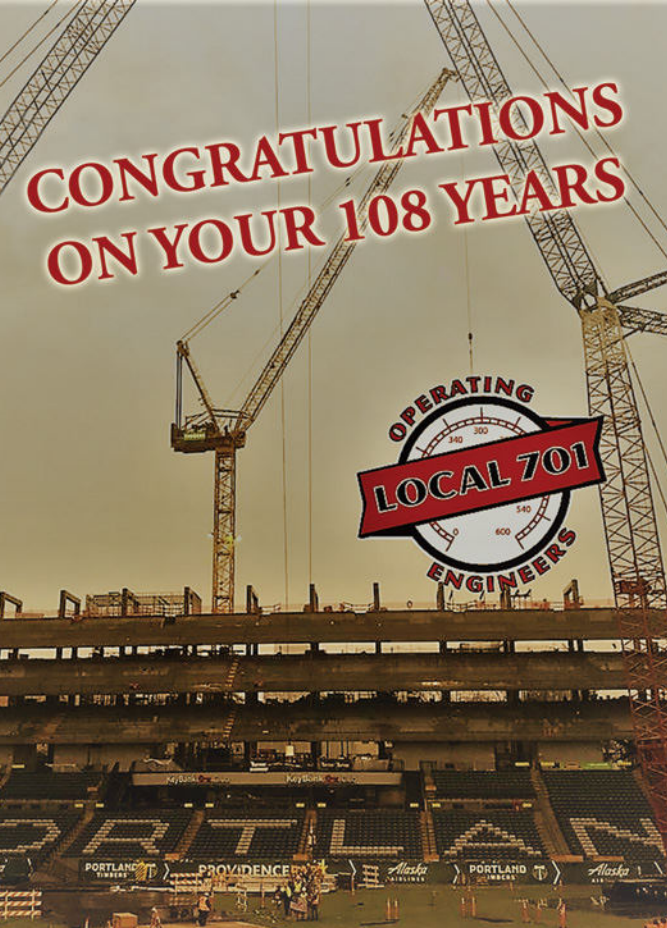


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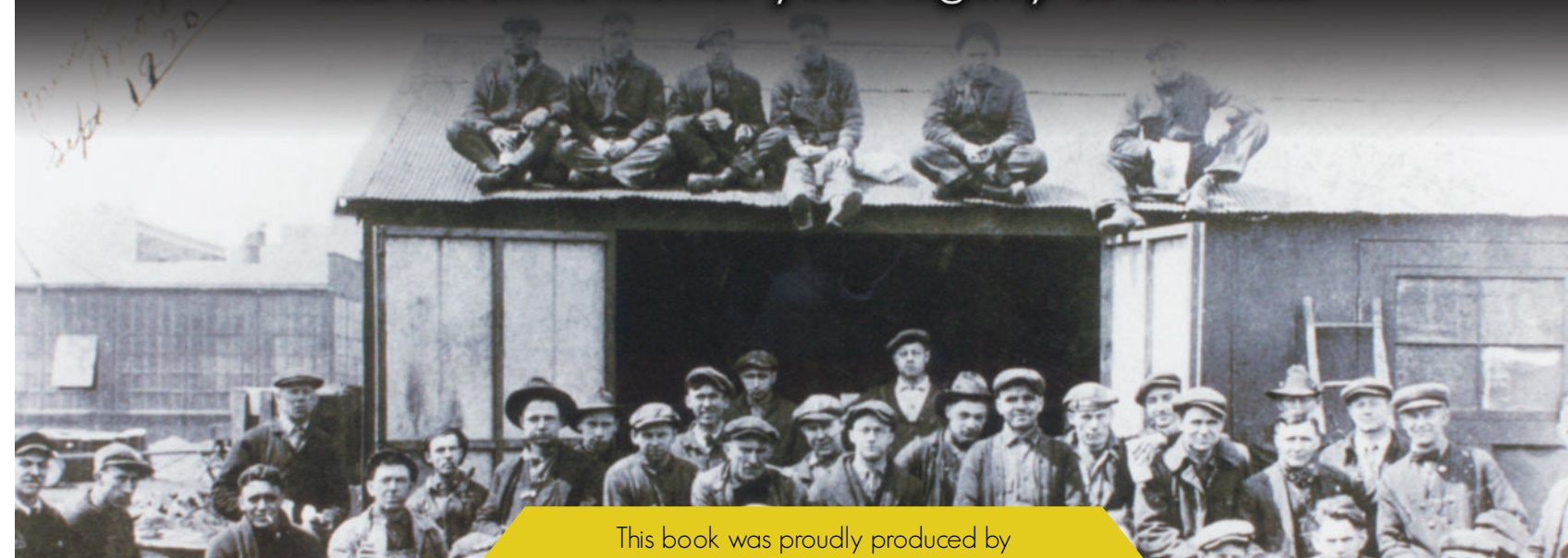
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METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT

AFFILIATED WITH

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Local Union Charter



To Whom It May Concern, Gr

Whereas, a petition has been received praying  
the International Union of Operating Engineers to  
the following Territorial Jurisdiction  
Niagara County, New York, and all the cities and towns therein  
International Union of Operating Engineers hereby retaining the right to amend, restrict or enlarge said territorial  
jurisdiction.

Now Be, that acting under the authority vested in us by the Constitution, and Laws of our International Union,  
desire and cause this Charter to be issued for the institution of a Local Union to be known as  
Union No. 463  
Hoisting and Portable  
with the following Craft Jurisdiction:  
Hoisting and Portable  
as stipulated in Subsection (b), Section 1 of Article XIII of the Constitution  
International Union of Operating Engineers hereby retaining the right to amend, restrict or enlarge said craft  
jurisdiction: and to bear date of December 31, 1938.  
and by virtue of this Charter to do and  
International Union hereby declares its right to suspend or revoke this Charter for any neglect or refusal  
in the duties required by the Constitution and Laws of this organization, and should the aforesaid Local Union  
not or forfeit this Charter then all property, books, papers and monies shall be transferred to the General  
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"In Witness Whereof"